

instead think it is arrogance and a lack of touch with reality.

I ask myself why I would even want to give the majority party advice to do better if, in fact, the electorate is likely to make them pay for their arrogance. But I must say the longer they persist in this denial, the harder it will be for America to correct their course. Maybe the majority party will suffer for their arrogance, but the U.S. will suffer more.

□ 1015

TRADE MUST BE FAIR

(Mr. SMITH of Michigan asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute and to revise and extend his remarks.)

Mr. SMITH of Michigan. Mr. Speaker, I was one of the Members down in Mexico this past Thursday, Friday and Saturday and Sunday at the WTO negotiations. I think a lot of Members of Congress were concerned that, again, this country might give in to what other countries wanted just for the sake of more world trade.

I would like to commend the Bush administration, and Robert Zelnick, our trade ambassador, for holding the line and not giving away things just for the sake of more world trade that eventually might have hurt our manufacturing business and our agriculture. I think no longer can we afford to have world trade just for the sake of world trade. It has got to be fair. It cannot be to the long-term disadvantage of America.

STOP DEFICIT SPENDING

(Mr. ROSS asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute.)

Mr. ROSS. Mr. Speaker, it has been 860 days since President Bush and the Republican party embarked on their economic plan for our country.

During that time, the national debt has increased by \$1,167,994,451,600.72. According to the Web site for the Bureau of the Public Debt at the U.S. Department of Treasury, yesterday at 4:30 p.m. eastern daylight time the Nation's outstanding debt was \$6,808,319,837,959.49. Furthermore, in fiscal year 2003, interest on our national debt or the debt tax, D-E-B-T tax, is \$304,978,878,641.11. That is through August 31.

Mr. Speaker, we must stop deficit spending and pay this debt down.

LIMITS ON MEDICAL LIABILITY

(Mr. BURGESS asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute and to revise and extend his remarks.)

Mr. BURGESS. Mr. Speaker, this weekend on Saturday, Texas, my home State, passed a constitutional amendment to limit and cap noneconomic damages in medical liability lawsuits.

Texas now, as a result of passing this bold constitutional amendment, will enjoy lower liability premiums. In fact, my old insurer of record, Texas Medical Liability Trust, announced they would reduce premiums by 10 to 12 percent beginning this week.

Texas will control costs in medical care by this bold legislation and keep themselves competitive in the world market. One might ask, Mr. Speaker, do we then still need H.R. 5, the bill that was passed by this House that now languishes in the other body? I would submit that very strongly we do.

Mr. Speaker, this summer I was in Nome, Alaska, and talked to the medical staff at the hospital there, a medical staff that cannot hire an anesthesiologist because they cannot afford the liability premium. This means that doctors who practice obstetrics have to send their patients to Anchorage for cesarean sections, a 90-minute plane ride, and I am given to understand the weather in Nome, Alaska, is sometimes bad.

At Columbia University in New York, they cannot attract good medical students into their residency program. In fact, I was told by their residency director they are taking applicants that they would not have even interviewed 5 years ago.

Mr. Speaker, it is time for the Senate to pick up and pass limits on medical liability.

WE NEED TARGETED TAX CUTS

(Mr. RYAN of Ohio asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute and to revise and extend his remarks.)

Mr. RYAN of Ohio. Mr. Speaker, we lost another one. WCI Steel, Incorporated, in Warren, Ohio, filed Chapter 11 bankruptcy just yesterday, one of the last major steel mills in the old "steel valley" that ran through Ohio and Western Pennsylvania. 1,740 workers are just going to hope they get a paycheck on Thursday. They have been bleeding cash for the last 3 years. Losses in 10 of its last 11 quarters produced \$163.6 million in red ink.

The ultimate irony, this happened just a few days within the anniversary of 1977 when the closing of Youngstown Sheet and Tube's Campbell Works that wiped out nearly 5,000 jobs in one day.

This has been going on since 1977. It is time for this country to adopt a manufacturing policy that is going to start creating jobs back in the good old U.S. of A, not tax cuts for the top 1 percent but targeted tax cuts to allow investment here in the United States of America.

It is not going to happen with smoke and mirrors. It is not going to happen with the press conference. We are getting our clock cleaned by China, and it is time the United States wakes up just before it is too late.

TIME TO FOCUS ON ENFORCEMENT OF TRADE AGREEMENTS

(Mr. PENCE asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute and to revise and extend his remarks.)

Mr. PENCE. Mr. Speaker, I support free trade in principle, but I am troubled about its practice in America today. The State of Indiana has lost more manufacturing jobs than any other State in the Union. Virtually every major manufacturer in my eastern Indiana District has shed jobs since this recession began in the latter months of 2000, with one exception, and this week that company announced the elimination of 600 jobs in an entire foundry in central Indiana.

I just came from a meeting with the Secretary of Commerce, Don Evans. I commend the Secretary and the President for the appointment of a new Assistant Secretary of Manufacturing for establishing an unfair trade practices team. It is time for this administration to focus on enforcement of our trade agreements, with special emphasis on China and Mexico. Make them be as good as their word, Mr. Speaker, and it is also time to explain to American industry that shifting jobs overseas for short-term profits serves neither them, their shareholders nor their Nation in the long term.

HONORING JIM SHEEHAN

(Mr. GARRETT of New Jersey asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute.)

Mr. GARRETT of New Jersey. Mr. Speaker, I rise today in memory of a man who dedicated his life to public service and once sought to become a Member of this House as well. Mr. Speaker, the people of Bergen County and the rest of New Jersey lost a dedicated public servant, a devoted father and husband and family man and a friend of mine when Jim Sheehan lost his battle to cancer.

Mr. Sheehan spent the majority of his career in public service. He worked for a while for the people of Bergen County for a period of time. In 1976 and 1978 he was the Mayor of Wyckoff, and after that he became a freeholder, from 1991 to 2002, the Board of Chosen Freeholders of Bergen County.

After serving as freeholder for the county, he took on the very difficult task of being the chairman of the Republican party in Bergen County. Bergen is the last largest Republican organization in the State of New Jersey, and though he worked very hard and tirelessly strengthening the party of Lincoln, he did so while remaining friends and having the respect of people on both sides of the aisle.

So, Mr. Speaker, on behalf of the people of the 5th Congressional District, particularly the folks over in Bergen County, I offer my prayers and condolences to the friends and family of Jim Sheehan.